

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 15, 2007. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in this application. New claim 9 is added, based upon Example 6. New claim 10 is added, based upon Example 7. New claims 11 and 12 are added, based upon Example 8. New claim 13 is added, based upon Example 9. Claim 7 is amended to exclude prior art compounds. No additional or new subject matter is introduced into the application by this Amendment. Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in the application, of which claims 3, 5, and 6 are withdrawn species of the invention of claim 1. The Examiner is respectfully urged to *rejoin* claims 3, 5, and 6, and to treat them on their merits in this application along with claims 1, 4, and 7-13.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious from US 2,962,533 (Hardy). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As to claim 1: In terms of formula (1) in Applicants' claim 1, Hardy discloses compounds in which the variable W is a carbonyl group. Applicants' claim 1, however, specifies that "W is a linkage group selected from the group consisting of arylene groups, sulfur atoms, and thiocarbonyl groups." Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 1 herein is neither taught nor suggested by the Hardy disclosure.

As to claim 7: In the o-hydroxybenzophenones of Hardy, each of two benzene rings has a hydroxyl group. In an aromatic vinyl ether compound represented by Applicants' Formula (1a), however, when W is a carbonyl group and at least one of the two aromatic rings does not have a hydroxyl group, and instead has a vinyloxy group. See proviso (i) at the end of claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 in its present form is outside of the scope of the Hardy disclosure.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious from EP 0 466 096 A1 (Minami). The rejections are respectfully traversed

As to claim 1. In terms of formula (1) in Applicants' claim 1, Minami discloses compounds in which the variable W is a sulfonyl group. Applicants' claim 1, however, specifies that "W is a linkage group selected from the group consisting of arylene groups, sulfur atoms, and thiocarbonyl groups." Accordingly, the subject matter of Applicants' claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by the Minami disclosure.

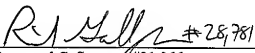
As to claim 7: In the derivatives of 4-hydroxyphenylsulfone disclosed by Minami, one of the two rings has a hydroxyl group and the other has an -OR group, which may be a vinyloxy group. Thus, in Minami, both rings cannot have vinyloxy substituents at the same time. In an aromatic vinyl ether compound represented by Applicants' Formula (1a), however, when W is a sulfonyl group, both of the two aromatic rings have vinyloxy groups. See proviso (ii) at the end of claim 7. Therefore, claim 7 in its present form is outside of the scope of the Minami disclosure.

As discussed in detail above, neither Hardy nor Minami teaches or suggests compounds falling within the scope of claim 7 in its current form. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 7 over Hardy and Minami, and to pass all of claims 1 and 3-13 herein to Issue.

If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

Respectfully submitted,

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